Annex "A," Subparagraph 3a,

Economic Background

AGRICULTURAL POTENTIAL

463 The main means of livelihood of the Votes is small-scale farming and cattle raising. In czarist times men worked often in the winter as cab drivers in Petersburg and sometimes as factory workers also. Several unmarried women of varying ages served there as maids.

[227] The Votes who live near water engage in fishing. Among other fishing equipment they used to fish with spears.

000 "advanced technics" referred to in this Soviet source.

226 Other means of livelihood. All other occupations besides farming have very little significance in Vepse. In 1897, only 0.89 per cent of these people got their livelihood from fishing and hunting. Fishing has importance only for the North Vepsians. Formerly they fished not only for their own food but also for trade. All the salmon was sold, whereas whitefish and other cheaper kinds of fish they
• [227] used themselves. Their fishing gear consisted of nets and seines. The seines were owned by two or three persons and the catch was divided between them.

In more recent times the catch is said to be quite small because of the decreasing supply of fish in the waters and the primitive fish-
[776] ing methods. But even when the catch is good, the fishermen do not like to admit it either to their family or to outsiders, for they are afraid that the water spirit may get angry and tangle their nets.

The Middle and South Vepsians fish for their own food on Sundays and at other free times. For each village there are one to two seines belonging to several families. Kettunen, on the occasion of his second trip to the Vepsians in 1934, states that the illegal fishing has ruined the formerly rich abundance of fish in the Vepsian lakes.